

Amendments to the Specification

Please delete paragraph [0001] and replace with the following:

[0001] This application is the U.S. national phase of the International Patent Application PCT/US2004/031703, filed September 27, 2004, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/506,387, filed September 26, 2003, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please revise paragraph [0028] as follows:

[0028] FIGS. 2A-2D shows the sequential steps for loading the bricks on a kiln car 101 in the loading area 20 depicted in FIG. 1 according to one embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 2A, the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~ is shown loaded with bricks 5 and positioned slightly below the horizontal support beams of an unoccupied level 35 of the kiln car 101. Each level of the kiln car includes horizontal support beams 36 and cross-beams 38, where cross-beams 38 will support the bricks 5 and horizontal support beams 36 support cross-beams 38. The horizontal support beams 36 rest on lugs 105 affixed to vertical supports 200. Lugs 105 may include a raised portion to help maintain the position of the horizontal support beams 36 as they rest on the lugs.

Please revise paragraph [0029] as follows:

[0029] A first machine 125 provides power to the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~. A second carriage 65 containing rollers ~~65~~ is positioned on the opposite side of the kiln car 101. A second machine 135 provides power to the second carriage 65 containing rollers ~~65~~. FIG. 2B shows the second carriage 65 containing rollers extending into the kiln car so that the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~ and the second carriage 65 containing rollers ~~65~~ are adjacent to one another. In one embodiment of the present invention, carriage 65 is sufficient to support the entire weight of the loaded bricks 5. In another embodiment, carriages 15 and 65 may be interconnected to provide additional support from carriage 15 for carriage 65 during loading. FIG. 2C shows the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~ and the second carriage 65 containing rollers ~~65~~ raised to a level slightly above

the horizontal support beams of an unoccupied level of the kiln car 35. Spaces are provided between the rollers to allow the first and second carriages 15, 65 to pass through the cross-beams of the unoccupied level of the kiln car 35. FIG. 2C further shows the bricks 5 being moved from the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~ to the second carriage 65 containing rollers 65. After all of the bricks 5 have been transferred to the second carriage 65 containing rollers 65, the first carriage 15 containing a conveyor ~~45~~ and the second carriage 65 containing rollers 65 are lowered, leaving the bricks resting on the cross-beams of the kiln car, as depicted in FIG 2D. The second carriage 65 is then withdrawn from the kiln car.